

Common bottlenose dolphin



The bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) was listed as a regular visitor or passage migrant by Van der Meij et al. (2006). Though Common bottlenose dolphins are visually distinct due to their color patterns, they are often mistaken for other species of dolphin (Van der Meij et al., 2006). Unlike most other dolphin species for which they are mistaken, Common bottlenose dolphins are highly migratory and can be found throughout almost the entire North Sea (Van der Meij et al., 2006).

History/ Population trends

The most common fossil taxon found in the North Sea is the bottlenose dolphin, of which numerous fossils have been found (Post, 2022). Evidence of predation by white sharks was found, as well as evidence of a strange atlas, suggesting possible crossbreeding with other dolphins (Post, 2022). Only a few fossils have been dated and these are not older than c. 3000 BP (Post, 2022). There have been a total of 114 sightings involving 'dolphins' of any kind in the study performed by Van der Meij et al., but without an adequate description (2006). After the study performed by Van der Meij et al., no reliable data or information on sightings or strandings for the entire North Sea was found by this study (2006).

Miscellaneous

- Though Common bottlenose dolphins occur more often in similar areas as seals do, they are not the most common species of toothed whale in the North Sea (Post, 2022; Van der Meij et al., 2006). The most common cetacean of the North Sea is the Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), followed by White-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*) and then Common bottlenose dolphin (Post, 2022; Van der Meij et al., 2006). However, they compete and can be a nuisance to fishers (Santos et al., 2001; Van der Meij et al., 2006).

Diet

- Sprat (Santos et al., 2001)
- Salmon (Santos et al., 2001)
- Cod (Santos et al., 2001)
- Whiting (Santos et al., 2001)
- Other gadoids (Santos et al., 2001)
- Small fish (Santos et al., 2001)
- Flatfish (Santos et al., 2001)
- Sandeel (Santos et al., 2001)
- Cephalopods (Santos et al., 2001)
- Crustaceans (Santos et al., 2001)
- Annelida (Santos et al., 2001)

Sources

Post, K. (2022). Marine mammals of the North Sea. *Grondboor & Hamer*, 128–131.

https://natuurtijdschriften.nl/pub/1024371/G-H2022nr3-4_art-696-Post-2022-marine-mammal.pdf

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